

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4582

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUJUMBURA 0765

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, BY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PARDONS POLITICAL PRISONERS ON INAUGURATION DAY

SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT ON EVE OF HIS INAUGURATION NOV 27 FOR NEW TERM, PRESIDENT MICOMBERO ISSUED FAIRLY EXTENSIVE LIST OF PARDONS. WE DO NOT KNOW ALL NAMES ON LIST, BUT MOST IMPORTANT GROUP RELEASED FROM PRISON INCLUDES FORMERLY HIGH MILITARY OFFICERS AND COVILIAN OFFICIALS CONVICTED IN JAN 1972 FOR PLOTTING TO OUST MICOMBERO. (THIS WAS SO-CALLED CONSPIRACY OF FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF NTUNGUMBURANYE AND COHORTS WHOSE DEATH SENTENCES WERE COMMUTED IN 1972, AND SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS WERE RELEASED MONTHS AGO.) MOVE IS NOT ILLOGICAL, SINCE PLOTTERS, WE WERE ALL TUTSIS, WERE ALLEGEDLY PROTESTING AGAINST GROWING POWER OF TNEW FOREIGN MINISTER SIMBANANIYE AND INTERIOR MINISTER SHIBURA. WITH SIMBANANIYE NOW DOWNGRADED AND WITH SHIBURA RECALLED AND DISMISSED FROM PEKING EMBASSY (THOUGH THIS INFO STILL SECRET HERE), THEIR ERSTWHILE RIVALS CLEARLY BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR REHABILITATION. SOME MAY EVEN GET GOVERNMENT POSTS AGAIN IN DUE COURSE: INDEED, FMODERATE FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NDABAKWAJE, RELEASED IN FEB 1972 AFTER DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTATION, HAS REPORTEDLY LATELY TURNED DOW SEVERAL OFFERS OF HIGH POSTS FROM MICOMBERO.

ALSO AMNESTIED ARE TWO PERSONS ARRESTED IN AUGUST AND FALSELY

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ACCUSED OF CONNECTION WITH VIRULENTLY ANTI-MICOMBERO TRACT THEN

CIRCULATING IN REGIME CIRCLES. APPARENTLY, MICOMBERO IS NO
LONGER UP-TIGHT ABOUT TRACT, SINCE THREATENED FURTHER DISCLOSURES
BY ANONYMOUS AUTHOR HAVE NOT TAKEN PLACE. FINALLY, ITALIAN CATHOLIC
PRIEST SENTENCED THIS MONTH TO EIGHT YEARS FOR REFERRING TO
UNDERPRIVILEGED POSITION OF HUTUS HAS ALSO BEEN RELEASED.
MARK

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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